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*PLEASANT GROVE ORIGINAL FREE WILL
BAPTIST CHURCH*



150th ANNIVERSARY

1859 - 2009

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Parnell, Alton.
Pleasant Grove Original Free Will Bapti:



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PLEASANT GROVE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

SHORT HISTORY

The Church was organized in 1859 by Elder David H Peele and he served as first Pastor through 1860. In the early years the members met in homes until Mr. William Pike gave one fourth acre of land Dec 19, 1867. The first converts recorded in the Church minutes were William H Andrews and wife Avy; Nancy M Barnes, who was the daughter of Jonathan Barnes and Sarah Mozingo, wife of James Mozingo. In the early days there was Quarterly Meeting the Saturday before first Sunday and was an all day event with dinner on the grounds. The three main things at these meetings were to appoint delegates to Union Meetings; appoint committee to check on Brother or Sister so and so and report back; excommunicate for missing three meetings in a row or for "disorderly walk". The original building is part of the present sanctuary. The only night services were the Christmas Program and the Fall Revival, which was held before cold weather so we could go to Sasser's Mill Pond for Baptism. Oil lamps were used for lights until 1925 when carbide light were installed. Electric lights were installed in 1941. The first addition of four Sunday School classrooms and center space were added in 1935 and since then several additions have been made.

Pleasant Grove is recognized for supporting home and foreign missions, Children's Home, Mount Olive College, Cragmont and other causes. Pleasant Grove is the Mother church of the Western Conference.

The clerks were Thomas Vail; "Uncle" Johnnie Bryan; J W Bunn; Edmund Ham; Stephen Worrell; C R "Uncle Bob" Davis; Clee Davis; Roland Fleming; Mildred Talton; Irwin Rowe; Lillie Mae Pender; Lida Fultz and presently Marsha Sauls.

Pleasant Grove Sunday School was organized Apr 5 1896. For the first few years Sunday School was not held in the cold winter months as dirt roads and travel by foot or buggy made travel very bad. The Sunday School Superintendents have been Edward L Mozingo; Neppie Williams Davis; George Mitchell; Walter L Pearce; John Exum Davis; Charles Robert Davis; Claude Hinnant; Alpheus Jones; Irwin Rowe; Worth Overman; Dee Glover; Don Fleming; Robert Lancaster and presently Fred Rouse. During the 1950's "baby boomers" period the enrollment was 250 with 220 present. Some of the families in the 40's and 50's were Aycock; Bryan; Bedford; Bissette; Davis; Fields; Fleming; Hare; Hinnant; Howell; Lancaster; Parnell; Pittman; Sasser; Talton and Vail.

The Pleasant Grove Women's Auxiliary was organized between 1915 and 1920. The original name was "The Ladies Aid". They met on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. The Night Auxiliary was organized in 1956 for the ladies who had public jobs or small children. The Day Auxiliary in 2000, due to dwindling members, merged with the Night Auxiliary. The current enrollment is 31 and they meet the first Thursday night of each month.

Pastors of Pleasant Grove Church

The First Pastor and Founder was Elder David H Peele who served 1859-1861. Elder Peele was born June 15 1825 in Nash County and married Edna Edgerton Jan 13 1866 at Contentnea Meeting. Elder Peele died July 6 1896 and his wife died Dec 3 1893. Both are buried at Nahunta Cemetery. They had a daughter Polly Ann Peele born Mar 7, 1873 and she married John R Starling. They had a daughter Annie Bell Starling who married Wendell Edgerton, Sr. Wendell Sr. has a son Wendell Edgerton, Jr and his son is Edward "Ted" Edgerton who lives in Wilkesboro and is Elder Peele's Great-Great Grandson.

The 2nd Pastor was Elder Joseph Sauls who served 1861-1871. Elder Sauls was born in Wayne County in 1817 and married Sarah Sauls in 1841. Elder Sauls had four children. One was Joseph Jr born in Jun 1853 and he had a son Ernest Sauls born Jun 20, 1893. Ernest had a son Joe Ben Sauls that lives in Goldsboro and is Elder Sauls' Great Grandson.

The 3rd Pastor was Elder Daniel Davis who served 1871-1888 and was the 5th Pastor serving 1894-1898. Elder Davis was born in Surry County Aug 4 1826 to William Davis and died Aug 23 1900. Elder Davis married Chellie Combs born Sept 16, 1828 and one of their children was John Exum Davis born Mar 8, 1861 and died Sep 2, 1938. John Exum married Mensie Horn born 1861 and died 1941. One of their children was Pascha Davis born Dec 6, 1886 and died Jan 24 1975. Pascha married Roby Aycock on Dec 13 1908 and one of their children was Hazel Catherine Aycock. Hazel married Paul Griewahn. Mrs. Hazel Griewahn now lives in Pikeville and is Elder Davis' Great Granddaughter. Her sister Grace Aycock Pate has a daughter, Martie Pate McCall and she is his Great-Great Granddaughter.



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The 4th Pastor was Elder Jonathan Mozingo serving 1888-1894. Elder Mozingo was born in Pikeville to John and Polly Mozingo in 1848. Elder Mozingo first married Lucinda Pike and later Mollie Graham. Mollie and Elder Mozingo had a son Foy Mozingo born Feb 20, 1891 and died Aug 27 1968. Foy had a son Bruce that married Geneva Hicks and one of their children is Cheryl Mozingo and she married Ben Benton. One of their children is Jennifer Benton and she married Michael Parnell. Jenny Parnell lives in Pikeville and is Elder Mozingo's Great-Great Granddaughter.

Elder Charlie Richard "C R" Pearce was 6th Pastor and served 1898-1901 when he died in Office. Elder Pearce was born Mar 15, 1851 and died April 26, 1901. Elder Pearce married Anna M Davis Jan 18, 1874 and they had a son Walter Lemuel Pearce born Sept 1, 1875 and died Jul 4, 1929. Walter married Mattie Lee Alphin and they had a son Herman Earl Pearce. Herman married Mary McManus and they had a daughter Cathy Pearce. Cathy married James Bolich and they live in Allentown, PA. Cathy is Elder Pearce's Great-Granddaughter.

The 7th Pastor was Elder James H Worley serving 1901-1903. He was born to John and Julia Johnson Worley Sept 1, 1852 and died Sept 1, 1946. Elder Worley and his wife Ann had a son Paul C Worley. Paul married Rosa Barnes and they had a son Carl P Worley, Sr. Carl Sr. and his wife Grace had a daughter Iris Worley Taylor who lives in Wilmington and is Elder Worley's Great-Granddaughter.

The 8th Pastor was Elder P T Lucas serving 1903-1907 and the 11th Pastor serving 1909-1912. Elder Lucas married Patricia Newsome and they had a son Silas Redding Lucas, Sr. born Jul 25 1898 and died Mar 14 1965. Silas married Mary Ann Lamb and they had a son Silas Redding Lucas, Jr. who lives in Lucama and is Elder Lucas' Grandson.

The 9th Pastor was Elder John William Valentine serving 1907-1908. He was born in Spring Hope Feb 20 1859 and died Feb 10 1929. He and his wife Ida had a son William Henry Valentine. William Henry and his wife Mabel had a son John William Valentine. John William and his wife Margaret Perry Valentine had a son Donald Valentine. Donald Valentine lives in Louisburg and is Elder Valentine's Great Grandson.

The 10th Pastor was Elder Charlie E Orton serving 1908-1909 and the 13th Pastor serving 1913-1914. Elder Orton was born Mar 1869 and married Lou Treacy. They had a daughter Sadie Orton and she married Billie H Horne. Sadie and Billie had a son Clifton Charlie Horne born May 16 1916 and died Mar 10, 1969. Clifton Charlie and wife Ester had a son Clifton Darrell Horne. Darrell and his wife Ann live at Walnut Creek and he is Elder Orton's Great-Grandson.

The 12th Pastor was Elder William Tyler Johnson serving 1912-1913. Elder Johnson was born 1878 and died Aug 11 1917. Elder Johnson had a sister Matilda Johnson who married Joe S Collier and they had a son David Collier. David Collier has a son Bobby Collier who lives in Pikeville and is Elder Johnson's Great Nephew.

The 14th Pastor was Elder Lemuel T Phillips serving 1914-1915. Elder Phillips was born 1860 in Kenly and he and his wife Edna had a daughter Mattie Leigh Phillips born Dec 12 1920. Mattie married Wiley L Kirby and they had six daughters. One of them is Jackie Kirby who married Rev Frank Flowers and they live in Goldsboro. Mrs. Jackie Flowers is Elder Phillips' Granddaughter.

The 15th Pastor was Elder Will H Howell serving 1915-1921. Elder Howell was born Dec 1 1886 and died Aug 13 1929. He married Ora Parnell born Nov 2 1889 and died Nov 25 1917. They had a daughter Thelma Howell born Aug 14 1916 and died Jul 16 1995. Thelma married Raymond Stafford and one of their sons is David Earl Stafford who married Betsy Geraldine Fields and they live in Four Oaks. David Earl is Elder Howell's Grandson.

The 16th Pastor was Rev William E Anderson serving 1922. Rev Anderson was born Dec 1872 to James and Mary Anderson in Marks Creek, Wake County. He served Churches in all parts of North Carolina. He and his wife Lillie had eight children and one was Ruby Anderson who married Stanley Baldree. Ruby and Stanley had a son Harrell K Baldree who married Shirley Willis. Mrs. Shirley Baldree lives in Morehead City and her daughter Mrs. Rosemond McGowan is Rev Anderson's Great Granddaughter.

The 17th Pastor was Rev William Guy "W G" Boykin serving 1922-1925. Rev Boykin was born Oct 10 1900 to William and Catherine Rains Boykin and died March 1 1974. Rev Boykin was never married. His sister Eva was married to Carl Williamson and their son is Benjamin Williamson Sr. who has a daughter Fran. Fran and her husband Ernest Jordan live in Fremont and is Rev Boykin's Great Niece.

The 18th Pastor was Rev Berry Preston Parks serving 1925-1927. Rev Parks was born Mar 13 1877 and married Myrtie Belle Gardner. They had a son Clarence Preston Parks who had a son Robert Preston Parks born Oct 21 1930 and died Apr 21 2002. Robert had a son Andrew Preston Parks who lives in Rutherfordton and is Rev Parks' Great Grandson.

The 19th Pastor was Rev Simon H Styron serving 1927-1939. Rev Styron was born 1891 and died Dec 17 1939. Rev Styron married Ida Oliver and one of their children was Simon H Styron III and he had a son Wade B Styron and he and his wife Sheri live in Pine Level and is Rev Styron's Grandson.

The 20th Pastor was Rev Marvin E “Jack” Tyson serving 1939-1941. Rev Tyson married Irene Hart and they had one daughter and six sons who all became Methodist Ministers. Rev Vernon C Tyson and Rev Bobby Tyson are two of his sons.

The 21st Pastor was Rev Clifton Taylor Rice serving 1941-1948. Rev Rice was born Jan 9 1907 in Pamlico County and died Mar 13 1997. Rev Rice married Doris Lucille Lanier. Their daughter is Joan Carolyn and she and her husband Murrell Ray Broadway live in Kinston. Two of their sons are Jeffrey Rice Broadway and Scott Andrew Broadway.

The 22nd Pastor was Rev Richard Noble “R N” Hinnant serving 1948-1962. Rev Hinnant was born Aug 17 1900 and died Jun 1981 in Denham Springs, LA. Rev Hinnant and his wife Stella had a daughter Doris Faye and she married Rev Harold L Hine and their son is Christopher R Hine and they live in Baton Rouge, LA. Rev Hinnant had a brother Dr Milford Hinnant and his daughter Mrs. Margaret McLaughlin lives in Fayetteville and is Rev Hinnant’s Niece. Dr Hinnant’s Grandson is James McLaughlin who lives in Fayetteville and is Rev Hinnant’s Great Nephew.

The 23rd Pastor was Rev Albert Coats serving 1962-1965. Rev Coats and his wife Lucille had a son Rev Donald A Coats and he and his wife Susanne live in Smithfield.

The 24th Pastor was Rev Thomas Bruce Dudley serving 1965-1967. Rev Dudley was born Jun 24 1940 to Henry and Rhonda Dudley and died Dec 4 2004. Rev Dudley married Mary Elizabeth Moore and Mrs. Mary Dudley lives in Deep Run.

The 25th Pastor was Rev Jerry Baxter “J B” Starnes serving 1967-1971. Rev Starnes was born Feb 20 1920 and died Jun 16 1981. Rev Starnes married Addie Victoria Stack. Mrs. Addie Starnes lives in Newport.

The 26th Pastor was Rev Joseph Ellis “Joe” Gerald serving 1971-1973. Rev Gerald married Sylvia Ann Williams and they live in Hope Mills.

The 27th Pastor was Rev Luther James Lupton who served 1973-1981. Rev Lupton was born Jun 19 1919 on Cedar Island and died Aug 17 1994. Rev Lupton married Ruth Hartley and Mrs. Ruth Lupton lives in Pikeville.

The 28th Pastor was Rev Dr Bobby Taylor serving 1981-1982 when he left to be President of the Children’s Home. Dr Taylor is now Pastor of Plymouth Original Free Will Baptist Church and he and his wife Janie live in Greenville.

The 29th Pastor was Rev Buddy Sasser serving 1983-1985. Rev Sasser is the Convention Service Director of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention and he and his wife Pam live in Lucama.

The 30th Pastor was Rev Dr Cedric D Pierce serving 1985-1993. Dr Pierce’s parents were Cedric and Marguerite Payne Pierce. Dr. Pierce married Linda Gibson and they live in Greenville.

The 31st Pastor was Rev Dr Jerry Stephenson who served 1994-1997. He and his wife Susie live in Clayton.

The 32nd Pastor was Rev Alvin Keener serving 1997-2003. Rev Keener and his wife Lillian live in the La Grange area.

The 33rd Pastor is Rev Franklin G “Barry” Stallings serving from 2003 until the present. Rev Stallings married Olivia Fountain and they have two daughters and they live in Fremont area.

Associate and Youth Pastors

Rev David Allen served 1999-2002. He and his wife Maria live in Wilson.

Rev Troy A Lee served 2003-2006. He and his wife Tracy live in Clayton.

Rev Stanley W Kirby served 2008 until present. He and his wife Nancy live in the Nahunta area.

Ordained Ministers from Pleasant Grove

Elder Jonathan Mozingo	1866	(4 th Pastor)
Elder Daniel Davis	1867	(5 th Pastor)
Elder George Davis	1887	
Elder Will M Howell	1900	(15 th Pastor)
Elder John Exum Davis	1908	Elder Daniel Davis' son.

Rev Archie P Lee was born 1877 and died Jul 10, 1958. Rev Lee married Lula Smith and one of their daughters was Bertha who married Duffie Talton. One of their sons is Marion Talton. He and his wife Annette live in Nahunta. Another daughter is Lida Belle who married Carson Futrell and her son is Arnold Futrell.

Rev Dr Cedric Pierce	1959	(was 30 th Pastor)
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Rev Henry Barfield III	1962	He and his wife Peggy live in Locust, NC.
Rev Bobby Futrell	1974	He and his wife Edith live in Pikeville.
Rev Larry Joseph "Joe" Crumpler Jr	1977	He and his wife Cathy live in Mount Olive.
Rev Don Allen Fleming	2007	Rev Fleming lives in Pikeville.
Rev Stanley W Kirby	2009	Current Associate Pastor. He and his wife Nancy live in Nahunta.
Rev George H Futrelle	2009	He and his wife Renee live in Grantham.

Interim Pastors

Rev Emmitt Jones served 1982-1983. Rev Jones and his wife Carolyn live in Grantham.

Rev Rudolph Rowe in 1997 and also 2003. Rev Rowe was born Jun 6 1935 and died Jul 18 2007. His wife Hazel Rowe lives in Pinkney. His daughters Mary Gardner and Lynne Herndon live in Pikeville.

